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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/768,617	01/25/2001	Bret S. Clark	3174-000001/CPA	5733

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EXAMINER

SMITH, TYRONE W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2837

DATE MAILED: 07/25/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/768,617

Applicant(s)

CLARK ET AL.

Examiner

Tyrone W Smith

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 June 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 17 June 2002 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Murty (4544868). Murty discloses a three-phase brushless DC motor controller, which includes a source of a direct voltage (Figure 1 #16), an inverter (Figure 1 #18) having a switching circuit for regulating the DC bus current to a fixed level. Figures 4(A-C) and 5(A-C) shows the fix level (I_{ref}) and current sharing/share the (DC) bus current at commutation (abstract, column 5 lines 31-68 and column 6 lines 1-66) comparable to the claimed invention.

Regarding Claims 2-6. Murty discloses shows that the winding energization is controlled by a read only memory (ROM) or programmable logic array (PLA) (Figure 1 #44) which directs the driver circuit (Figure 1 #46) connected to the data lines to supply drive current to the various bridge transistors (column 2 lines 57-68 and column 3 lines 1-7).

Regarding Claims 5, 6, 10, 15 and 16. Murty discloses a shunt resistor (Figure 1 #96) connected in series between the battery and the inverter and the line connects the inverter side of the shunt resistor as an input to the PWM circuit. People skill in the art understand that the shunt resistor or device connected in parallel across other devices or apparatus and diverting some of the current from it. Appreciable voltage exists across the shunted device or apparatus and an appreciable current may exist in it.

Regarding Claims 13 and 14. Refer to the previous rejection regarding DC bus current regulated at a fixed level.

Examiner's Response

3. Applicant's arguments filed June 6, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Examiner reiterates Murty's invention, a source of a direct voltage, an inverter having a switching circuit for regulating the DC bus current to a fixed level. Figures 4(A-C) and 5(A-C) shows the fix level (I_{ref}) and current sharing/share the (DC) bus current at commutation. The switching circuit, in Murty, use force phases of the motor to share the DC bus current at commutation by off-on switching, from one phase to a subsequent phase. Examiner refers to Figure 5 (A-C), particular B, which can create waveforms as described in Figure 6 of the current invention. Also refer to column 6 lines 39-66. Examiner request that the Applicant further narrow and/or expound on the claims to give the inventive feature of the invention. Rejection id maintained under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tyrone W Smith whose telephone number is 703-306-5987. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Nappi, can be reached on (703) 308-3370. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-308-3431.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1782.

Tyrone Smith

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ROBERT E. NAPPI
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